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Agriculture  
Office of  
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# Selected Speeches and News Releases

June 27 - July 3, 1991

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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## APPLE TREES STARTED IN JARS CUT ORCHARD COSTS

WASHINGTON—U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists are growing new apple trees in 16-ounce jars—40 trees to a jar—as a way to trim the rising costs of orchards.

An apple tree started from plant cells in a jar could cost a grower “under \$2 each compared to about \$5 for a tree grafted onto a rootstock,” said plant physiologist Richard H. Zimmerman of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service:

Zimmerman and colleagues in the ARS Fruit Laboratory at Beltsville, Md., also are shortening the start-up time for new trees by using a cloning technique called tissue culture. Plant cells are placed in the 16-ounce jars in a growing “broth” and coaxed into tiny shoots.

“Our tissue-cultured shoots produced roots in about four weeks,” Zimmerman said in a report in **Agricultural Research** magazine.

After growing in the greenhouse for a couple of months, he said, the infant trees were ready to be planted in the field. Total time from lab jar to the field: about four or five months compared to about three years in a conventional nursery.

Approximately 150 of these regular size apple trees can be planted on one acre. But Beltsville fruit lab scientists see potential cost savings in dwarfing these trees. On the same acre, a grower could plant anywhere from 600 to 1,000 dwarf trees.

According to the report, a larger number of smaller trees could lower costs in the face of orchard land prices in the mid-Atlantic area that have risen 400 percent in the last 10 years.

Dwarf trees, about seven feet tall, are easier to prune, spray and harvest. They also bear fruit earlier than the standard-size trees, which can grow 14-feet tall or more, said George L. Steffens, a plant physiologist in the lab.

“Today’s dwarf apple trees don’t grow on their own roots but are grafted onto special rootstocks,” said Steffens. “These rootstocks are not well adapted to our East Coast environment.” Also, the smaller roots are susceptible to water stress, requiring irrigation, and the trees need to be staked, he said—all adding to the costs of operating a dwarf-tree orchard.



“Planting 1,000 grafted trees per acre is very expensive—sometimes it runs two or three times the cost of the land,” Steffens said. “What we really need are less expensive trees.”

He said one answer is “to identify the genetic trait that controls dwarfing.” That trait may then be transferred into varieties grown from tissue culture.

Another possible dwarf control may come from studies of compounds known as growth regulators, Steffens said.

“We’ve already successfully used growth regulators to reduce vegetative growth of several apple varieties,” he said. Varieties include Gala, Delicious and Golden Delicious. These substances limit the production of gibberellic acid which promotes a tree’s growth.

Doris Stanley (301) 344-276

Issued: June 27, 1991

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## **USDA OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO SMALL AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS**

WASHINGTON, June 27—About 200 farmers from seven southeastern states will attend the Small or Limited Resource Farmers Regional Conference July 10-11 at the Doubletree Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Farmers Home Administration and Tennessee State University in Nashville. States represented will be Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

“This conference is part of USDA’s outreach program to provide information and technical assistance to small-scale and limited-resource farmers, and to encourage them to take advantage of the assistance available from the department,” said La Verne Ausman, FmHA administrator. “Our goal is to keep small farmers in business at a profitable level.”

The conference will provide opportunities for farmers to obtain information through discussions, lectures and one-on-one meetings with government officials, educators and subject matter experts.

The conference will feature specialists from USDA’s Extension Service, Forest Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Soil Conservation Service, as well as FmHA. In addition, agricultural specialists from Prairie View A & M University in Texas, the University of Kentucky, Auburn University of Alabama, the University of Tennessee, and Tennessee State University will make formal presentations and be on hand for personal consultations during the conference.

Special presentations will be made by Calvin King, executive director of the Land and Farm Development Corporation of Brinkley, Ark., and Dr. John Dunkelberger and Dr. Kathy Peale who will discuss "Farm Crime: Experience of Small Farmers in the South."

Sally Lawrence (202) 447-6903

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## **USDA GRANTS \$8.25 MILLION TO 1890 INSTITUTIONS FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING**

DOVER, Del., July 1—Associate Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Charles R. Hilty announced today the U.S. Department of Agriculture will provide \$8.25 million in fiscal year 1991 to the 1890 land grant institutions for 43 teaching and research projects.

Hilty announced the grants at a meeting here of the joint USDA/1890 Task Force.

The capacity building grants program is part of USDA's continuing effort to strengthen relationships with the nation's 1890 land grant institutions and encourage more cultural diversity in the agricultural scientific and professional workforce.

Hilty said the 17 institutions are uniquely qualified to help accomplish this goal.

"These historically black colleges and universities now enroll Asian, Hispanic and other minority students, and their faculties represent a diverse array of ethnic and cultural backgrounds," he said. "The grants will help these institutions increase their capacity to attract and educate more minority students."

This is the second year of the grants program, which is administered by USDA's Office of Higher Education Programs in the Cooperative State Research Service. In fiscal year 1990, 29 projects were funded at \$5.5 million.

The capacity building grants program encourages matching support from non-federal sources. Hilty said one of the outstanding achievements of this year's program is that the institutions secured 100 percent matching funds for all 43 projects.

The teaching projects will cover such areas as curricula design and materials development, faculty preparation and enhancement, instruction delivery systems, student experimental learning, and student recruitment and retention.



The research areas will include studies and experimentation in the food and agricultural sciences, establishment of centralized research support systems, and development of improved technology delivery systems.

A list of the 43 grants follows.

## 1890 INSTITUTION CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS IN FY 1991

### ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY, Huntsville

Teaching — Strengthening Ph.D. Programs Via Enhancements in Biostatistics and Molecular Biology	\$157,491
Teaching — Nurturing Student Development and Professional Interest in Home Economics	\$157,496
Research — Pesticide Transport in Relation to Tillage Practices and Organic Matter	\$224,134
Research — Capacity Building in Development of Biochemical and Molecular Markers in Gossypium	\$175,478

### ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY, Lorman, Miss.

Teaching — Enhancing Agricultural Economics with Two Bachelor of Science Options and A Master of Science Concentration	\$157,500
Teaching — Collaboration and Linkages Between Alcorn State University and Cooperating Community Colleges for Student Recruitment	\$157,500
Research — New Antimicrobial Agents for Improving Safety and Shelf Life of Poultry	\$306,934

### DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY, Dover, Del.

Teaching — Recruitment and Retention in Agriculture and Natural Resources	\$157,500
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### FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY, Tallahassee

Teaching — A Center for Undergraduate and Continuing Education Studies in Entomology	\$86,843
Research — Low Input Sustainable Agricultural Programs for Small Farmers in North Florida	\$313,621



Research — Introgression of Desirable Characteristics of Bunch Grapes into Muscadines	\$314,136
<b>FORT VALLEY STATE COLLEGE, Fort Valley, Ga.</b>	
Teaching — Community Service Internships	\$81,000
Teaching — Computerized Agricultural Education Delivery System and Recruitment Program	\$44,846
<b>KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, Frankfort</b>	
Teaching — Aquaculture Curriculum Development	\$125,314
Research — Fate of Pesticides and Nutrients in Vegetable Systems on Highly Erodible Land	\$315,000
<b>LANGSTON UNIVERSITY, Langston, Okla.</b>	
Research — Establishing A Stable Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry Facility	\$199,596
Research — Establishing A Center of Excellence in Cashmere Goat Research and Support Systems	\$276,076
Research — Factors Affecting the Quality of Fiber Growth in Goats	\$150,696
<b>LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, Jefferson City, Mo.</b>	
Research — Enhancing N <sub>2</sub> -Fixation of Tropical Legumes Grown Under Temperate Conditions	\$115,954
<b>NORTH CAROLINA A&amp;T STATE UNIVERSITY, Greensboro</b>	
Teaching — Improving Education in Agriculture Through Information Technology	\$129,956
Teaching — Applied Advanced International Trade Program	\$157,500
Teaching — Instructional Resources and Outreach Program	\$112,166
Research — Applied Social and Economic Survey Research Center	\$314,977
<b>PRAIRIE VIEW A&amp;M UNIVERSITY, Prairie View, Texas</b>	
Teaching — The Enhancement of Agribusiness Education Opportunity	\$157,491
Teaching — Minority Access to Professional Status- PROJECT M.A.P.S.	\$157,500

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE COLLEGE, Orangeburg**

Research — Evaluation of Caged Catfish Production Systems for Low-Income Residents in South Carolina	\$314,923
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**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE, Baton Rouge, La.**

Teaching — Enhancement of Student Training in Animal Science at Southern University	\$132,003
Research — Dill As An Alternative Crop for Small-Scale Farms in the Southeast	\$274,600

**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, Nashville**

Teaching — Human Capital Development in Agri-Business/ Agricultural Statistics	\$112,310
Teaching — Strengthening Capacities in the Plant Science Teaching Program	\$157,320
Research — Establishment Of A Landscape Plant Evaluation Program	\$314,842

**TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY, Tuskegee, Ala.**

Teaching — Strengthening and Expanding Academics in Food and Nutrition for the 21st Century	\$157,500
Teaching — National Sweet Potato Information Center to Enhance Faculty Performance and Student Learning	\$157,500
Research — The Use of UV-C Light to Control Post Harvest and Seed Borne Diseases of Agricultural Commodities	\$243,116
Research — Enhanced Degradation of Butylate and Fenamiphos by Isolated Soil Microorganisms	\$156,485

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS - PINE BLUFF, Pine Bluff**

Teaching — Strengthening the Quality of Aquaculture Teaching by Acquiring Library Materials	\$115,002
Research — Aquaculture Intensification by Technologies Minimizing Impact on Water Quality	\$194,329

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - EASTERN SHORE, Princess Anne**

Teaching — Curriculum Development: Master of Science Programs in the School of Agricultural Sciences	\$44,846
Research — Effect of Retirement Planning on Older Rural Black Families	\$239,713
Research — Establishment of a Center for Plant and Microbial Biotechnology	\$150,696

**VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY, Petersburg**

Teaching — Building Institutional Capacity for Student Recruitment and Retention	\$157,183
Teaching — Student Experiential Learning, Recruitment and Retention in the Food and Agricultural Sciences	\$157,483
Research — Domestication and Nutritional Evaluation of Purslane	\$313,803

Pat Casula (202) 447-4423

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**CCC INTEREST RATE FOR JULY 6-1/4 PERCENT**

WASHINGTON, July 1—Commodity loans disbursed in July by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation will carry a 6-1/4 percent interest rate, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the CCC.

The 6-1/4 percent interest rate is up from June’s 6-1/8 percent and reflects the interest rate charged CCC by the U.S. Treasury in July.

Bruce Merkle (202) 447-8206

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## USDA SETTLES THREE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT COMPLIANCE CASES

WASHINGTON, July 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture settled three cases between March 21 and April 20 to enforce the humane care and treatment of animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act.

James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the cases resulted from earlier charges. Details are:

—Michael and Diane Honoshofsky of **LaGrange, Ohio**, have been ordered by a federal administrative law judge to pay a civil penalty of \$26,000 for failure to comply with the Animal Welfare Act and regulations. The Honoshofskys were also ordered to cease-and-desist from further violations of the Animal Welfare Act and regulations, and from engaging in further licensed activities for one year. The administrative law judge imposed the penalty after the Honoshofskys failed to answer a formal complaint by the USDA. The USDA alleged that on 13 occasions between Sept. 2, 1988, and Feb. 20, 1989, the Honoshofskys sold 383 gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, or dwarf rabbits in commerce at wholesale without being licensed as required by the Animal Welfare Act.

—Licensed animal dealer George Tom Smith of **Galveston, Ind.**, agreed to pay \$5,000 of a civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA charges that he willfully violated the Animal Welfare Act and regulations. On six occasions between April 27, 1987, and Jan. 22, 1990, APHIS inspected Smith's premises and records. USDA alleged Smith failed to maintain complete records showing acquisition, disposition and identification of animals. Smith was also charged with failure to provide clean food and water and structurally sound, sanitary enclosures and premises in good repair with sufficient space for the animals.

—Registered research facility Albany Medical College of **Albany, N.Y.**, agreed to pay a \$2,500 civil penalty without admitting or denying USDA charges that the facility operated below the prescribed standards of the Animal Welfare Act. In addition to the monetary penalty, an administrative law judge ordered Albany Medical College to refrain from housing animals in facilities that are not substantially moisture-proof, and to cease and desist from any future violations of the act. USDA charged that on five occasions between Aug. 24, 1988, and July 9, 1990, APHIS inspected the research facility and found it violated federal regulations requiring that animals be provided indoor housing facilities that can be readily sanitized.



Since 1966, the Animal Welfare Act has required that the care and treatment of certain animals be provided according to standards established by APHIS. Animals protected by the law must be provided adequate housing, handling, sanitation, food, water, transportation, veterinary care and protection against extremes of weather and temperature. The regulations also provide for the exercise of dogs and a physical environment adequate to promote the psychological well-being of nonhuman primates. The law covers animals that are sold as pets at the wholesale level, used for biomedical research or used for exhibition purposes.

USDA enforces the act primarily by conducting inspections and through administrative prosecutions when warranted. Many of these cases are resolved through the consent decision provisions of the regulations. Under these provisions, USDA and the respondent named in the complaint agree to a stipulated order and penalties. If the case is not settled, there is a hearing before an administrative law judge, who issues a decision. Any party may appeal this decision to the USDA judicial officer. The respondent may appeal an adverse decision by the judicial officer to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Failure to respond to the charges in the complaint results in the issuance of a default order by the administrative law judge who assesses penalties.

Animal dealers, breeders, transportation companies, exhibitors and research facilities, must be licensed or registered. USDA employees make periodic, unannounced inspections to insure compliance. Action is taken against violators if efforts to secure compliance are unsuccessful.

Sibyl Bowie (301) 436-7799

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## **USDA PROPOSES REVISING U.S. SOYBEAN STANDARDS**

WASHINGTON, July 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is proposing to amend the U.S. standards for soybeans.

Proposed changes include: eliminating test weight as a grade determining factor, but mandating that it still appear on the certificate; tightening limits for foreign material, splits and stones; eliminating the aggregate weight option for stones; establishing a special grade, "purple mottled or stained," and a new grade, "U.S. choice," for edible soybeans; eliminating grade limits for materially weathered soybeans; clarifying the reference to mixed

soybeans in the standards; establishing a cumulative total for factors which may cause a sample to grade U.S. sample grade; reporting the oil and protein content on all official lot inspection certificates for export soybean shipments; and revising Cu-Sum Plan inspection tolerances, or “breakpoints,” for certain factors.

“The proposed changes are a result of FGIS’ continuous 5-year review process for all grain standards. The revisions to the U.S. soybean standards are intended to enhance the successful marketing of U.S. soybeans,” said FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz.

This proposal will be published tomorrow in the Federal Register. Comments must be submitted in writing on or before Sept. 4, to George Wollam, FGIS, USDA, Room 0619-S, Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; automatic telecopier machine at (202) 447-4628.

Dana Stewart (202) 382-0378

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## **USDA PROPOSES U.S. WHEAT STANDARDS REVISION**

WASHINGTON, July 1—The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Federal Grain Inspection Service is proposing to amend the U.S. standards for wheat.

FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz said the proposed modifications include: removing the description of red durum wheat from the definition of unclassified wheat; reducing limits for stones, pieces of glass, and ergot; reducing the limit of smut balls allowed in the special grade “light smutty wheat;” establishing a cumulative total for factors which may cause U.S. sample grade; and reducing the grading limits for foreign material.

FGIS also intends to revise inspection plan tolerances for wheat, used under the Cu-Sum Plan, based on the proposed changes.

Foltz said the proposed wheat standards revision is the result of the agency’s continuous and ongoing review of all grain standards.

This proposal was published today in the Federal Register. Comments must be submitted in writing on or before Sept. 4, to George Wollam, FGIS, USDA, Room 0619-S, Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; automatic telecopier machine at (202) 447-4628.

Dana Stewart (202) 382-0378

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USDA RELEASES COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR MAY

WASHINGTON, July 2—Here is the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s monthly update of the weekly cost of food at home for May 1991:

COST OF FOOD AT HOME FOR A WEEK IN MAY 1991

	Food plans			
	Thrifty	Low-cost	Moderate-cost	Liberal
Families:				
Family of 2 (20-50 years)	49.40	62.50	77.00	95.70
Family of 2 (51 years and over)	46.90	60.30	74.10	88.70
Family of 4 with preschool children	71.90	90.00	109.90	135.00
Family of 4 with elementary schoolchildren	82.40	105.60	132.00	159.00
Individuals in four-person families:				
Children:				
1-2 years	13.00	15.90	18.50	22.40
3-5 years	14.00	17.30	21.40	25.60
6-8 years	17.10	22.80	28.60	33.30
9-11 years	20.40	26.00	33.40	38.70
Females:				
12-19 years	21.30	25.40	30.80	37.30
20-50 years	21.40	26.60	32.30	41.40
51 and over	21.20	26.00	32.00	38.20
Males:				
12-14 years	21.10	29.40	36.60	43.00
15-19 years	21.90	30.30	37.70	43.80
20-50 years	23.50	30.20	37.70	45.60
51 and over	21.40	28.80	35.40	42.40



USDA's Human Nutrition Information Service computes the cost of food at home for four food plans — thrifty, low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal.

Sue Ann Ritchko, HNIS administrator, said the plans consist of foods that provide well-balanced meals and snacks for a week.

In computing the costs, USDA assumes all food is bought at the store and prepared at home. Costs do not include alcoholic beverages, pet food, soap, cigarettes, paper goods and other nonfood items bought at the store.

"USDA costs are only guides to spending," Ritchko said. "Families may spend more or less, depending on such factors as where they buy their food, how carefully they plan and buy, whether some food is produced at home, what foods the family likes, and how much food is prepared at home."

"Most families will find the moderate-cost or low-cost plan suitable," she said. "The thrifty plan, which USDA uses to set the coupon allotment in the food stamp program, is for families who have tighter budgets. Families with unlimited resources might use the liberal plan."

To use the chart to estimate your family's food costs:

—For members eating all meals at home—or carried from home—use the amounts shown in the chart.

—For members eating some meals out, deduct 5 percent for each meal eaten away from home from the amount shown for the appropriate family member. Thus, for a person eating lunch out 5 days a week, subtract 25 percent, or one-fourth the cost shown.

—For guests, add 5 percent of the amount shown for the proper age group for each meal.

Costs in the second part of the chart pertain to individuals in four-person families. If your family has more or less than four, total the "individual" figures and make these adjustments (note: larger families tend to buy and use food more economically than smaller ones:

—For a one-person family, add 20 percent.

—For a two-person family, add 10 percent.

—For a three-person family, add 5 percent.

—For a five- or six-person family, subtract 5 percent.

—For a family of seven or more, subtract 10 percent.

Details of the four family food plans are available from the Nutrition Education Division, Human Nutrition Information Service, USDA, Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Johna Pierce (301) 436-8617

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## COMMENT SOUGHT ON SAUSAGE SPECIFICATION REVISION

WASHINGTON, July 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment on a revision of the Institutional Meat Purchase Specification (IMPS) for sausage items that will include new lower-fat and all-beef options for purchasers.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the proposed revisions will increase the number of IMPS sausage items available from 19 to 29 different varieties.

Haley said the proposed revisions stem from the changing needs of the institutional purchaser. "The new specifications should better meet those needs," he said.

IMPS includes three sets of specifications. One, "General Requirements," provides guidelines for refrigeration and packaging. A second set is descriptions of fresh beef, lamb, veal and calf, pork; cooked and cured beef and pork; variety meats, and sausage products. Series 800 covers sausage items. The third IMPS set, "Quality Assurance Provision," is a guide for using samples to determine a product's acceptability.

The new revisions for sausage items also include new Quality Assurance Provisions which would enable the user to identify defects and to clearly measure the quality of sampled production lots.

The proposed revisions were prompted by issues raised by the industry since July 1976 when the IMPS Series 800 was last revised, Haley said.

Comments on the proposed changes in the IMPS series 800, postmarked or courier-dated no later than Sept. 1, and should be sent to Michael L. May, chief, Livestock and Meat Standardization Branch, USDA, AMS, Livestock and Seed Division, Rm. 2603-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. Copies of the proposed revisions are available from that office, telephone (202) 447-4486.

Rebecca Unkenholz (202) 447-8998

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## **USDA EXTENDS PROPOSAL PERIOD FOR PECAN PROMOTION AND RESEARCH PLAN**

WASHINGTON, July 2 — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is extending until July 10 the comment period on its Jan. 30 invitation to submit proposals or written comments regarding a national pecan promotion and research program.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the extension reflects a pecan industry request for more time to refine its proposal.

An announcement of the extension of the comment period will appear in the July 3 Federal Register. Written comments postmarked, faxed or courier-delivered no later than July 10, may be sent to the Docket Clerk, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, Rm. 2525-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; fax (202) 447-5698. Copies of the Federal Register announcement are available from that address or fax number, or by calling (202) 475-3916.

Alicia L. Ford (202) 447-8998

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## **USDA REPORTS PROGRESS WITH WITCHWEED ERADICATION IN THE CAROLINAS**

WASHINGTON, July 2—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has eradicated the parasitic plant witchweed from three counties and parts of eight other counties in North and South Carolina during the past year.

“Thanks to our cooperative eradication program, Harnett and Lenoir Counties in North Carolina and Florence County in South Carolina are now free of witchweed, and have been removed from the list of areas regulated to prevent its spread,” said Dr. James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “The overall number of infested acres has been considerably reduced, even though land in 15 other counties is still infested.”

Glosser reported that 92,000 acres in the Carolinas were infested with witchweed one year ago. Today that figure is down to 72,000 acres. At the height of the infestation, witchweed grew on about 433,000 acres in the two states.

Witchweed is a parasitic plant that attaches itself to the roots of corn, sorghum and other grassy crops. It withers or stunts affected plants and reduces or destroys crop yields.

Witchweed occurs naturally in Africa and Asia. It was accidentally introduced into the United States in 1956. Since then, APHIS has maintained a quarantine on infested acreage, restricting the interstate movement of items, such as seed corn and soil, that could transport witchweed to uninfested areas.

“Eradication of witchweed in the Carolinas is important because the infestation poses a continuous threat to all regions of the country, particularly the Corn Belt,” Glosser said. “I thank growers in the Carolinas for their continued help by reporting new stands of the weed.”

A precise listing of the areas under witchweed quarantine as of July 1 is included in the Federal Register of that date. Comments on this interim rule are due by Aug. 30. They should include an original and three copies, and refer to Docket No. 91-083. Comments should be sent to the Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development; PPD-APHIS-USDA; Room 804 Federal Building; 6505 Belcrest Road; Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected in USDA, Room 1141-S of USDA’s headquarters complex, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays.

Doug Hendrix (301) 436-7255

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## **USDA REVISES STANDARDS FOR BULK AMERICAN CHEESE**

WASHINGTON, July 3—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will revise the standards for grades of bulk “American cheese” to reflect developments in cheesemaking technology. American cheese is four varieties of hard cheese made in the United States—Cheddar, Colby, granular cheese and washed curd.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, said these revisions are the first major changes in the product’s standards since they were established 20 years ago.



The revisions will:

—Permit use of U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved mold inhibitors (antimycotics) on the surface of the bulk cheese to give it longer shelf life;

—Add the criteria “flat” and “rancid” to the group of flavors used in deciding American cheese qualities;

—Redefine packaging requirements for USDA-graded American cheese in order to reflect changes in packaging technology since the grades were established; and

—Add the quality factor “finish and appearance” in determining the final grade.

“The changes will make grading of American cheese more accurate,” said Haley.

The use of USDA’s grading service is voluntary on the part of industry, and is fee-based. USDA grades provide assurance to buyers of hundreds of agricultural commodities that they get the quality they pay for.

The revisions will be published as a final rule today in the Federal Register. Copies may be obtained from AMS, USDA, Dairy Division, Rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456. For more information call (202) 447-4392.

Alicia L. Ford (202) 447-8998

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## **LOAN REPAYMENT RATES FOR SOYBEANS AND MINOR OILSEEDS TO BE ANNOUNCED**

WASHINGTON, July 3—Repayment rates for loans on sunflowerseed, safflowerseed, mustard seed and soybeans will be announced and will become effective at 7 a.m. Eastern time July 5, according to Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation. The values will be available at county offices of USDA’s Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Loan repayment amounts for these oilseeds will be the lesser of (1) the principle amount of the loan, plus accrued interest, or (2) the announced loan repayment level times the quantity under loan.

Repayment levels for the oilseeds, except soybeans, will be announced every Friday. Soybean repayment levels will be announced daily.

John Carlin Ryan (202) 447-8207

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